

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Region IV

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Weber Basin Students Impress National Director of "Take Pride in America Campaign"

Sixteen maintenance students from Weber Basin Job Corps made quite an impression on Marti Albright, the National Director of President George W. Bush's "Take Pride in America Campaign."

Albright, who's touring the country to rally support for the campaign, was greeted with an arousing ovation by the students.

"We planted more than 250 trees in an hour," shouted landscaping student Michelle Painter.

"That's amazing! How did you do

that?" said Albright.

"We're Job Corps!" exclaimed Guy Bergeson as the rest of the students hooted and hollered.

Albright then began to tell the students about the "Take Pride in America Program." "It's more than a government program – it's a philosophy. The message is simple: the public lands belong to all of us. We have the right to use it, but that carries with it the obligation to take care of it and make it look good and enjoyable for our kids and grand

kids. The public lands begin with the street in front of your house, so it doesn't matter if you live in New York City or Park City. There is something each and every one of us can do.

Thank you very much for your efforts today. We really appreciate it."

After her message, Albright handed out T-shirts to the students. They were also treated to pizza by the Parks Service in Park City.

Roswell's UFO Festival 2004

While almost 200 students got ready to go home for summer break, 11 got geared up for an annual celebration that lasted 4 days in Roswell. This year by proclamation the July 1-4, 2004, UFO and Roswell Festival was dedicated as Julie Shuster Festival Days. Roswell Job Corps Center was on hand through the entire event, providing support and security.

This event was started in 1997 on the 50th anniversary of the alleged UFO incident outside of Roswell, NM; and since 1947 there has been growing skepticism, speculation, and interest in the alien and UFO phenomenon. Seven years after the Festival was created, Julie and a dedicated board were determined to revitalize the celebration, and bring

back the mystique and excitement about "What is out there." The primary organizations involved in the planning of the UFO festival and Roswell Job Corps center have had over a year of strong relations building. Business Community Liaison, John Merchant, was delighted when the board approached him about Protective Services Trade at RJCC putting in a bid to provide security. "This is a wonderful opportunity; not only are we getting first and preferential bidding, but our students will be working with Roswell Police and New Mexico Mounted Patrol. This is great exposure for both the students and those organizations to see the quality and dedication of our students," stated Merchant. The wheels were set in motion back in

March to make sure that the students would be able to take advantage of this well paying opportunity and still enjoy their full summer break. Career Development Supervisor Dwight Smith was in charge of making sure all the little details were addressed long before the last minute. "I think it's great, and it involves everyone on center. Transportation has to get altered, DOL needs to approve those students' summer schedule, and we need to make sure meals, rides, and rooms are ready for these kids. It is their initiative that is making them do it and we should all support that."

As with everything, there were some last minute reservations to the whole event. "One of my board members said she would not support

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Employment and
Training Administration

JOB CORPS News

Burdick Work Based Learning Students to Meet Capitol Brass

Fifteen Burdick Job Corps students will travel to Bismarck, North Dakota, on August 27, 2004. Working side by side with North Dakota Capitol Facilities staff, they will learn how to clean the massive brass doors and hundreds of feet of brass railings in the House of Representatives and Senate chambers at the North Dakota State Capitol.

It all started with Job Shadow Day of 2003. Twelve Burdick Job Corps students shadowed positions throughout the state capitol including:

North Dakota Human Services, the ND Insurance Commissioner's office, Central Supply, as well as Facilities Maintenance. James Burgum, the Youth Program Coordinator, represented the Governor and welcomed the students. The Human Relations Department staff also welcomed Burdick students and held a mini workforce training session with the students. The students operated a Burdick Job Corps display and held dozens of conversations with the State Capitol staff and

the public throughout the day.

From Job Shadow to Work Based Learning, Governor John Hoeven and the staff at the capitol have welcomed the talents of Burdick Job Corps students on a series of exciting new adventures in the work world. Ms. Edna Sailor-Bergstad, WBL/BCL Coordinator, reports that the Cafeteria and Motor Pool at the State Capitol have also expressed interest in the Work Based Learning Program. Those arrangements will be forthcoming.

Past Guthrie Job Corps Student Becomes Center Director for GJCC

For 18 years, Priscilla Mayberry has worked at Guthrie Job Corps center. "Through the course of 18 years, I have worked my way up," she said. Mayberry was a graduate of the Guthrie Job Corps center in 1976. It was the Guthrie Job Corps center that set the stage for her professional development. She attributes her success from her past experiences at the Guthrie Job Corps center. After her successful completion of the Job Corps program, she went on to Langston University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and journalism.

She took her first internship with KOKH channel 25, where she worked on promotions for movies and individuals, like Barry Switzer (former Dallas Cowboys & Oklahoma University Football Coach).

Mayberry's first position at Guthrie Job Corps was Resident Advisor, but she soon had the opportunity to work up into administration as a staff coordinator. From there she became an outreach and placement manager, Career Development Service Systems Manager, Deputy Director of Career Management Services, and then landed the position of Center

Director for the Guthrie Job Corps center in April 2004. Mayberry literally worked her way from student to Center Director. "Job Corps is the place that gives me the greatest opportunity to have an affect on young people in a positive and effective manner," she said. "I have a passion for the work I do and a deep appreciation for this program."

The previous Center Director, Richard Myers, had been given the opportunity with the corporate office of ResCare. He is now Vice President of Job Corps operations.

Ask Arla

Dear Arla,

With the Regional Academic Olympics closely approaching, can you tell me if there is a video available from last year's competition? If, how can I get a copy of it?

J.S. - Texas

Dear J.S.,

Glad you asked this question, as it seems that it is a popular one. Back in late March we

shipped out the Academic Olympic Study Guides with a VHS copy of the 2002 competition. Unfortunately, the 2003 event is not available at this time. However, when it does become available we'll make sure to send a copy to every center in the region. If you need a copy of the 2002 competition, please contact me. As for this year's event, you are right - it is fast approaching. For more details about this year's event please look on

page 4. Regional Notices will also be sent out with further details.

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, and Ask Arla letters for the Volume 5 Issue 4 newsletter are due by Friday, Oct. 1, 2004 to:

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

At the June 2004 Regional Conference, Cutting Edge gave us a preview of the new Regional website. Can you tell me if it's available now? -

Surfing the Net

Dear Surfing the Net,

The website went live in July and

can be viewed by accessing the Internet at www.JobCorpsRegion4.org. Updates and additional information will be added continuously. Some pages are currently being revised and edited, but the core information is readily available. The databases are available and will continue to be added to and edited as an ongoing project. Eventually, we will be able to pro-

vide staff with direction on how to submit their own changes to the website. As soon as we are able to do that, we'll send the information to all of the centers. In the meantime, if you have any revisions, edits, corrections, etc. please contact either your Project Manager or Cutting Edge via email.

JOB CORPS News

A STREET SMART NAMED “DESIRE”- Motivating Students to Achievement

By Dean Christopher



Of all the frustrations that teachers regularly face, student underachievement is surely one of the greatest. Up to 50% of all students (all IQ levels, ethnic backgrounds, circumstances) underperform! This grim statistic challenges educators to find ways to stop the hemorrhage of our nation's intellectual capital.

Underachievement is a complex problem with a constellation of underlying causes. Some are psychological. Others are societal or physiological (poor health; physical and nutritional deficiency). Still others link to family, peer groups, and school. Any or all of these can block the desire for achievement.

I focus on “desire for achievement,” because *the desire to achieve motivates all accomplishment.*

Before we can judge whether students are achieving their potentials, we need to assess those potentials. But there is little agreement on definitions or measurement techniques. Each city, even each school district, might have its own definition. Still, we can probably agree that “underachievement” describes some *disconnect between ability and performance.*

This returns us to the issue of how to measure the disconnect. Some techniques are formal, comparing IQ or achievement tests, GPAs, aptitude tests – while others are subjective, contrasting student outcomes with teacher expectations. If his teacher thinks Lenny isn't performing up to his potential, *bam!* Lenny is an “underachiever” – by definition.

But, even assuming the teacher is right, we still need to drill deeper. *Why* isn't Lenny achieving? What's the extent of his failure? Is

he underperforming in one subject, or many? Is the slump temporary or chronic? Is it situational, or baked into Lenny's personality? Are identity, racial, or even sexual issues contributing to the deficiency?

Students with low self-esteem or bad group self-image tend to be highly vulnerable to peer pressures. Their need to belong often outweighs their “desire for achievement” – even when they see the benefits of achievement.

Other students surrender responsibility and control, preferring to attribute outcomes to outside factors (disadvantage, poverty, discrimination), and work less hard than students who believe that results come from internal factors (individual effort, native ability).

All students have early histories that *Job Corps* can't change. But you can focus on the present in ways that enhance the “desire for achievement.” Center-based factors can influence accomplishments of all students, by counteracting these common problems that researchers identify as destructive to students' motivation:

- Less-than-positive teacher-student relations.
- Less-than-positive classroom atmosphere.
- Rushing through material, leaving insufficient time for students to master it.

For minority students there are additional issues, like teacher inexperience with multicultural education. Few are trained to deal with underachievers *or* gifted students of any background! Teachers unprepared for gifted minority students are unlikely to refer them for special programs. And students who lack access to the enrichment they deserve, obviously have difficulty realizing their potential. And so the tragic cycle of underachievement continues.

Sadly, some instructors or counselors may unconsciously have lower expectations for

minority or low income students. They are accustomed to thinking of those students as “disadvantaged,” “at risk” or “abused.” So they overlook a significant discovery, mentioned in a *Newsweek* article (June 2, 2003) on achievement in U.S. high schools:

...even the most apathetic students responded to a challenge – as long as they had the right support.... This month more than a million students in 14,000 high schools took 1,750,000 AP [advanced placement] exams, a 10 percent increase over last year and twice the number of these college-level tests taken in 1996.

“Responded to a challenge” – in other words, raise, don't lower, the bar! Even more interesting:

From 1998 to 2002, AP participation by underrepresented minority students increased 77 percent and participation by low-income students increased 101 percent, while overall participation rose only 48 percent.

“...as long as they had the right support.” What support is that?

Support for students' “desire for achievement.” Awaken their self-perception; bolster their self-esteem. Create a wholesome teacher-student relationship. Help them master good study habits; manage their time; and learn the tricks of test-taking. Most of all, remind students that each one is a unique individual who transcends mere group identity.

Teachers have an exceptional opportunity to be living examples of the “desire for achievement.” Succeed in just that one area, and there is virtually no limit to the influence you can have on students' lives – for as long as they live.



COMING BACK SOON.
www.jobcorpsregion4.org

Read Regional Update on page 4 for details.



Regional Website

Good news! The Regional website went live in mid-July; please view it at www.JobCorpsRegion4.org. While the updates and revisions to the site will be an ongoing effort, we would appreciate your input regarding any changes that need to be made to the current information. Some pages are still being worked on, as you will note, but the core information is there. Eventually, staff will be able to submit their changes to the website directly to the webmaster. As soon as that is available, we'll spread the word. However, as of September 2, the

website has been temporarily shut down while it is being reviewed by ETA. We will let you know when it has been approved and is back up.

Regional CDSS Directory

With the implementation of the new Regional website, we will no longer be printing the CDSS Directory that accompanies the newsletter. All of the information previously printed in the directory is now available at www.JobCorpsRegion4.org by selecting the staff directory under the Regional Operations section.

Regional Academic Olympics

Regional Academic Olympics are rapidly approaching. Regional notices with more information regarding the games will be sent out in the near future. Make sure that you have the event marked in your calendars which is scheduled to take place the week of November 28, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas. All hotel and reservation information will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Look forward to seeing you there!

Center Tidbits

Collbran

Collbran student, Nicole Barden has been selected by the Colorado State Youth Council to represent the State of Colorado at the National Youth Council Conference in Oklahoma City, OK during the week of 23 August. Nicole was nominated by the State Youth Council for all of the hard work, dedication, and effort she has put into various youth council projects. Congratulations Nicole!!

David L. Carrasco Job Corps

The David L. Carrasco Center in El Paso, Texas will be entering their third season this year in basketball. What makes their program unique? Their program competes against local varsity high school teams and private schools

from the city of El Paso. Our Jaguars have received positive recognition from the media through local newspapers such as the *El Paso Times* and the *Herald Post*. Our men's team has a winning percentage of 85 including a victory last year against Lydia Patterson who ranked 8th in the city. This year our teams will have roughly 20 games each, including 2 teams that are ranked in the top 10 every year. In addition, D.L. Carrasco's Coach Mike Gonzalez will be hosting the "Lone Star Hoop Classic" tournament. This tournament will include four high school varsity teams and four Job Corps teams.

Tulsa Job Corps

Just as MTV and BET empower Americans old and young alike to register to vote, Tulsa Job Corps' Student Government Association (in

partnership with Faithful Citizenship Project) held a voter registration drive empowering both students and staff to register, and have their vote count during this important upcoming election. "Even though I am not old enough to vote, I truly understand the importance of this upcoming Presidential election, because whoever is chosen as our next President will be America's Leader when I am able to vote," stated Courtney Mitchell, Culinary Arts, age 17. Forty-five students registered on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, and received their voter registration card in the mail two weeks later.

Note: Due to an overwhelming response and limited space, additional center information/articles submitted for this issue will appear in the following issue, if timely.

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having Job Corps students as the security team. Well, we had our meeting with everyone that was involved with security and the students were so proper in their uniforms and had all the right answers, and a wonderful attitude; it put all of those apprehensions to rest and we offered them to be the overnight security as well," explained Shuster. Once again, Barron Broomfield and his students raised the bar of both perception and expectation. All of the students were scheduled to work 12 hours a day for the 4-day event. The students that worked this year's festival were: Kevin Major, Arthur Nederhauser, Chris Monroy, Jesus Rivera, Julio Grau, Mayra Mendez, Greg Crutcher, Doris Rashad, Ida Moreno, Jose Marquez, and Jaime Trejo.

The students were high profile throughout

the event, working security at Pioneer Plaza, keeping anything from happening to any of the 200 vendor booths that were set up through the event, covering security during a concert that featured the *Temptations*, and providing crowd control during the annual nighttime parade. "There cannot be anything said negative about how they are doing. They are courteous and professional, and so far the one incident that we have encountered they handled without incident," professed Shuster.

It was a tough schedule and a rewarding experience for all of the students. But they did not receive just paychecks from their hours of work – they also were given public recognition for their efforts and professionalism. At the *Temptations'* concert, members of the Festival Board went on stage to thank the audience and

players who made the event possible, and Roswell Job Corps Protective Services Trade was at the top of that list. As Center Director Roberto Nevarez would state, that is a warm fuzzy moment when 8000 people hear your name in recognition for great service.

We should all commend the efforts of all of our Career Development Staff for their preparation of the students in all areas of their training that has made them a respected resource in the community. Roswell Job Corps Center's participation in community is now a non-stop affair. In August, Culinary Arts will shine at the annual Summer Soiree, and in October, Protective Services will be at it again providing security at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair.